

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A fusion polypeptide wherein ~~an~~ a heterologous amino acid sequence ~~from a non-VGF protein is covalently linked~~ is fused to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7, and wherein the heterologous amino acid sequence is a peptide that:

- a) aids in detection of the fusion polypeptide;
- b) aids in isolation of the fusion polypeptide;
- c) promotes oligomerization of the fusion polypeptide; or
- d) increases stability of the fusion polypeptide.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A fusion polypeptide ~~of Claim 6~~, wherein ~~the heterologous amino acid sequence from a non-VGF protein is~~ an amino acid sequence of an IgG constant domain or fragment thereof is fused to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7.

8. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising the polypeptide of Claim 6 or 7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation agent.

9. (Original) The composition of Claim 8 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable formulation agent is a carrier, adjuvant, solubilizer, stabilizer, or anti-oxidant.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of Claim 6 or 7, which is covalently modified with a water-soluble polymer, wherein the water-soluble polymer is polyethylene glycol, monomethoxy-polyethylene glycol, dextran, cellulose, poly-(N-vinyl pyrrolidone) polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol homopolymers, polypropylene oxide/ethylene oxide co-polymers, polyoxyethylated polyols, or polyvinyl alcohol.

13. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of Claim 12 wherein the water-soluble polymer is polyethylene glycol or dextran.

14-23. (Canceled)